

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /085 W
-----003106 161300Z /45

R 160429Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2948
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2179

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, UR,CH, KN, MY
SUBJECT: SOVIET, CHINESE, AND NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDES TOWARD
ASEAN AND MALAYSIA.

1. DURING HIS RECENT SMALL LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF EA DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN, AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT
THE DEPARTING SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN HIS RECENT FAREWELL CALL
HAD BEEN QUITE UPBEAT ABOUT ASEAN, "PROVIDED OUTSIDE POWERS
DO NOT PUSH IT INTO CONFRONTATION WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES";
AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN IN SHARP CONTRAST TO HIS ATTITUDE
EIGHT MONTHS AGO WHEN AMBASSADOR HAD PAID HIS INITIAL
COURTESY CALL, AT WHICH TIME HIS SOVIET COLLEAGUE TARTLY
STATED THAT ASEAN WAS CLEARLY FOLLOWING THE WRONG PATH OF CON-
FRONTATION AS A TOOL OF U.S. POLICY. THE SINGAPORE HIGH COM-
MISSIONER CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD OBSERVED THE SAME CHANGE OF
HEART IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. HE SAID HE ASSUMED THE
SOVIETS AND VIETNAMESE HAD DECIDED ASEAN WAS NOT A TOOL OF
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THE U.S., AND THAT AN ATTITUDE OF LESS HOSTILITY TOWARD
ASEAN WAS REQUIRED TO MATCH THE PRC'S FRIENDLY ATTITUDE.

2. THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR CLAIMED THAT THE GOM HAD RE-
ACTED MILDLY TO EVIDENCE OF CHINESE INTERFERENCE IN
MALAYSIA. THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO A RECENT

ISSUE OF THE PEKING REVIEW DISTRIBUTED IN KUALA LUMPUR, IN WHICH THE PRC HAD CONGRATULATED THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNIST PARTY FOR THEIR STALWART EFFORTS AND THEIR RECENT "VICTORIES". THE EGYPTIAN SAID HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED THAT THIS BOLD INTERFERENCE IN MALAYSIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAD EVOKED NO GOM REACTION. THE SINGAPORE HIGH COMMISSIONER DISAGREED, SAYING HE KNEW THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD AT ONE TIME CALLED IN THE PRC AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCASTS FROM THE PRC BEAMED AT MALAYSIA. ACCORDING TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE PRC AMBASSADOR HAD BLUNTLY TOLD MRA THAT LATE PRIME MINISTER RAZAK HAD ACCEPTED THE PRC'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN STATE-TO-STATE AND PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS.

3. SUBJECT OF NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ASEAN COUNTRIES WAS ALSO DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF RECENT PDRK VICE PREMIER'S VISIT TO AREA. IT WAS NOTED THAT NRTH KOREANS HAVE ALSO APPARENTLY MODERATED THEIR STANCE VIS-A-VIS ASEAN AND ITS DECLARED OBJECTIVE OF A "ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
MILLER

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